Amendment to Standing Order 65.

President.—The question time is over. The next item is the further consideration of the Banker's Books Evidence Bill.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—No, Sir. There is an amendment to be moved by Mr. K. T. Mathew. In the supplementary agenda supplied to us it is stated that, after question time, Mr. K. T. Mathew will move that the draft amendment to Standing Order 65 be taken up and passed.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Sir, I move that the draft amendment to Standing Order 65 be taken up and passed.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I second it.

The question of substituting the words "not less than 15" for "not more than 20" in Standing Order 65 was put to the vote of the House and carried.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja's Banker's Books Evidence Bill.

President.—The next item is the consideration of the Banker's Books Evidence Bill. We have obtained the consent of the Council to the motion that the Bill be taken into consideration. Now, the President has to read it clause by clause.

There is an amendment to section 3 (i) to omit all the words after "Regulation IV of 1080".

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—Sir, I beg to move that the words after "Regulation IV of 1080" be omitted. The Bill does not appear to me so innocent and harmless as it appeared to me at first sight. Of course, I am conscious that the Council has accepted the main principles of this Bill. But that is no reason why we should not pause and consider whether there is anything wrong with what is contained in this Regulation, if we are convinced that there is likely to be some real hardship to some. That is why I tabled this motion to-day. The Bill confers some privileges to a class of people—I mean the bankers. It prescribes some general rule of evidence in favour of the bankers. That necessarily implies an encroachment upon the powers and rights of some other people—that is, the general public. But I presume that this House felt the necessity of giving some relief from the inconvenience and obstruction to business caused to some of the bankers, and I also presume that, mainly from the motive of encouraging the indigenous banking concerns in Cochin, this House accepted the main principles of this Bill. Consistent with that, I request this House to adopt this amendment. My amendment purports to restrict the operation of the mischief of this Bill to the indigenous business concerns of the State.

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